



# CITY OF HOUSTON GOVERNMENT RELATIONS HOUSTON PACHYDERM CLUB

Mayor's Office of Government Relations – 02/07/2023

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# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

# CITY OF HOUSTON 2023

## OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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City of Houston Lobby Contracts



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### Lobbying Contracts - Government Relations - City of Houston

Engage subcontractors to be part of the **lobby** team, and pay, manage and direct the subcontractors during the 87th Legislature, Regular Session; and Government ...



## Lobbying Contracts

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### *State Lobbying Contract*

On November 9, 2022 Houston City Council voted 16 to 1 to approve a two year agreement with Locke Lord LLP for state lobbying services for the City of Houston. The maximum spending authority for the agreement is \$757,000.00.

The scope of work requires the contractor to work with the Government Relations office to provide lobbying services for proactive legislation, adverse legislation, filed legislation, and general services.





*To increase transparency, the Mayor's Office for Governmental Relations is happy to provide the following contracts the City has executed for lobbying services. Please contact [Director Bill Kelly](#) with any further questions. The links below are .pdf, unless otherwise indicated*

- [Locke Lord Contract \(2022-2024\)](#)
- [Locke Lord Contract \(2020-2022\)](#)
- [Akin Gump Contract \(2018 - 2021, .pdf\)](#)
- [HillCo Partners Contract \(2018 - 2020, .pdf\)](#)
- [State Lobby Contracts \(2009 - 2018, .html\)](#)





***City of Houston Legislative Principles  
For the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature***

**City of Houston Mission Statement**

The City of Houston will focus its proactive legislative efforts on the enhancement of life in Houston through emphasis on public safety and criminal justice initiatives; economic development and increasing jobs; protecting the quality of life; improving mobility; creating complete communities; working towards creating a healthier environment; providing affordable housing opportunities; and making the government more responsive, transparent, and fiscally responsible.

All of this must be pursued with a focus on preserving local decision making and ending unfunded state mandates.

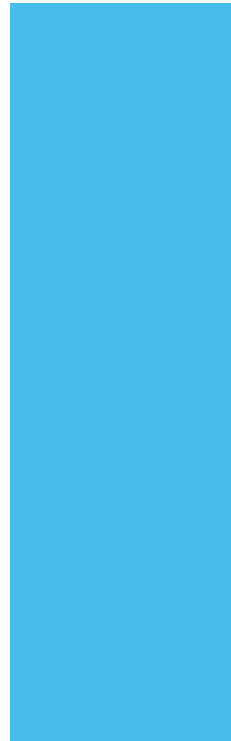


# 2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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# HOUSE BILL 914 TOWING REGULATIONS

Previously, law enforcement had to be present in order to authorize a tow for an abandoned vehicle in the city's right of way. Parking compliance officers could write citations on the vehicle, but couldn't authorize a tow.

This bill does not change the current policy of when a vehicle is deemed abandoned – it does not modify the 72-hour timeline at all - or make the city any more money.

What it does do is save an HPD officer from having to make the final trip out to the abandoned vehicle in order to authorize a tow.

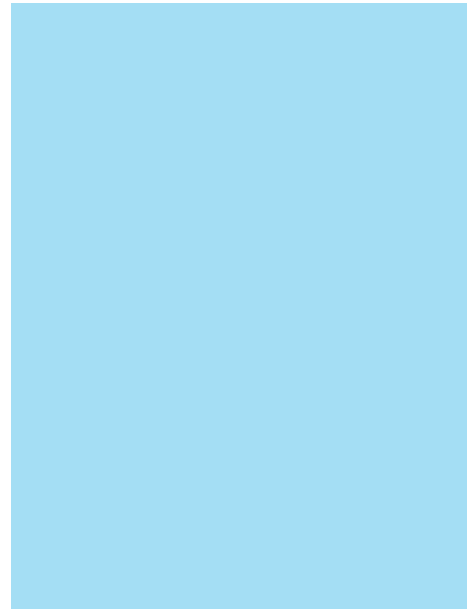


# HOUSE BILL 753 SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE FEE

Houston famously does not charge a solid waste fee – either for pick up at single family or multi-family homes.

Franchise fees are collected from waste hauling companies that service commercial businesses within the City of Houston charging 4% franchise fee

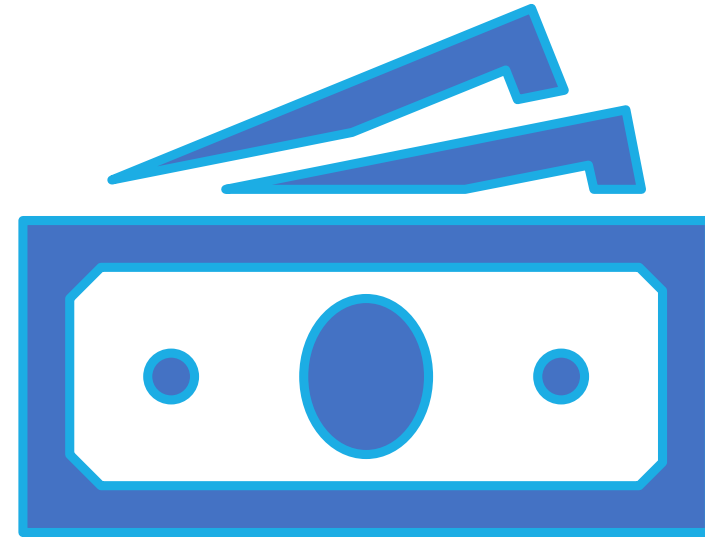
This bill would have cut \$4 million from the Solid Waste Department in franchise fee revenue that it could not afford to lose.



Community Reentry Network Program (CRNP), which provides in-reach and outreach to those involved in the criminal justice system, a structured system of holistic assessments, intensive case management support, evidence-based programming, and workforce support to more than 400 individuals annually.

This \$1 million allocation (\$500,000 each year of the biennium) has shown to be very successful.

While the statewide overall recidivism rate over the last 10 years held steady at just above 20%, the City of Houston CRNP has most recently experienced an annual recidivism rate of 7.8%.



# RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

The City of Houston has an ongoing problem with illegal signs bringing down the quality of life for neighborhoods. Despite efforts to target this blight, the City needs legislative changes to address ongoing issues on “bandit signs.”

In order to more effectively combat this blight, the City of Houston is proposing two changes to Texas Transportation Code Section 393.007:

**1. Increase the fine amount** Currently, the maximum civil violation is seen as a “cost of doing business” by these illegal bandit sign operators. The City of Houston would like to increase it to \$5,000 in order to leverage judgment in changing the operations of these operators.

**2. Change the standards** Inserting language that includes legal responsibility to the businesses directly benefiting from these signs creates another incentive for compliance.



# BANDIT SIGN PENALTIES

# MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR NEW TEXAS MOTHERS



Over half the births in the State of Texas are covered by Medicaid.

Prior to 2021, those new mothers were covered for only 60 days after birth. The #1 recommendation of the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Taskforce (appointed by the State of Texas) in its September 2018 report was "increasing access to health services during the year after pregnancy."

Legislation was passed to extend Medicaid Coverage for new mother's from the current 60 days to 6 months had had problems with federal compliance- meaning unless Texas extends to a full year, that coverage is in jeopardy.



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

2021 Legislative Session

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*The links below are .pdf, unless otherwise indicated*

- Bill Kelly to members of the Texas Senate against House Bill 1925 statewide camping ban - May 20, 2021
- City Legal's Steven Beard against House Bill 2730 in Senate Jurisprudence on eminent domain changes - May 21, 2021
- Bill Kelly against House Bill 1900 in Senate Jurisprudence against central state planning - May 21, 2021
- Mayor Turner to Senate Health & Human Services supporting House Bill 133 extending Medicaid coverage for new mothers - May 19, 2021
- Bill Kelly to Senate Committee on Local Government for the engrossed version of House Bill 1869 regarding recategorizing financing instruments - May 17, 2021
- Maria Irshad from ARA for House Bill 914 in Senate Business & Commerce regarding parking compliance officers - May 11, 2021
- Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin and every member of Houston City Council supporting House Bill 2525 on dredging operations for Lake Houston - May, 5, 2021

**Every piece of  
written testimony  
submitted by the  
City of Houston  
is posted online.**



# **2021 LEGISLATIVE TEAM**

- **Government Relations Team**
- **Contract Lobby Team**
- **Legislative Liaisons from City Departments**





# MAYOR'S OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS